

CICS Avalon Middle School
1501 E. 83rd Place
Chicago, IL 60619
Phone: 773-721-0858
info@cicsavalon.org



De'Jenne Grant, MS Principal
Joseph Patterson, MS Dean of Students
Shameka Williams, DOO

www.regenerationschools.org/cics-avalon

2022-2023

CICS-Avalon Campus

Middle School Information Packet

De'Jenne Grant, Middle School Principal

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Hello Avalon Families!

My name is De'Jenne Grant (Ms. Grant), and I am honored to share that I will be stepping into the role of principal for Middle School this year. The moment I met the Avalon staff, I knew where home would be for me. As families, you invest so much in us by enrolling your scholars at Avalon, and I am so excited to work alongside you to fulfill our mission of getting 100% of our scholars to go to and through college.

I began my career as an educator at a charter middle school in Bridgeport, CT. After teaching there for a year, I relocated back to my hometown of the Bronx in New York. In the Bronx, I taught and led for several years before moving to Chicago. I am still fairly new to Chicago, having just relocated here in June of 2021! While being here in Chicago, I took on a leadership role at Gary Comer College Prep, a Noble School, for a year before joining you all at ReGen. While I loved working with both elementary and high school scholars, middle school was where I started, and has always been my absolute favorite age group.

With that, I am super excited to return to middle school this year as I join all of you as your new Middle School principal. Thank you for welcoming me into the AVA Panther family! I am committed to ensure that every scholar continues to grow into well-rounded individuals so they are able to tackle college and beyond. I am looking forward to meeting you all when we return in August.

Sincerely,

De'Jenne Grant

Middle School Principal



Welcome to CICS Avalon



“A safe, structured learning environment, with a college prep focus!”

Mandatory First Days of School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Because we want to have a strong start to the school year, we have staggered the start dates for our scholars for Middle School Staggered Start Dates. During the required Middle School Staggered Start Dates, we will be going over our very high expectations for academics and behavior, practicing systems and routines that help us maximize instructional time, administering basic skill assessments, and engaging in team-building exercises. **It is mandatory for all scholars to attend.**

Middle School Staggered Start Dates

- **7th and 8th Grades: August 22nd st – August 24rd , 2022**
 - Gym Doors Open: 7:15am
 - Breakfast: 7:15am – 7:35am
 - Homeroom: 7:35am – 7:45am
 - Panther Camp: 7:45am – 12:00pm
- **5th and 6th Grades: August 25th, 26th, and 29th - 20022**
 - Gym Doors Open: 7:15am
 - Breakfast: 7:15am – 7:35am
 - Homeroom: 7:35am – 7:45am
 - Panther Camp: 7:45am – 12:00pm
- **First Day of School for All Scholars: Tuesday, August 30th , 2022**
 - Gym Doors Open: 7:15am
 - Breakfast: 7:15am – 7:35am
 - Homeroom: 7:35am – 7:45am
 - Regular Day: 7:45am – 3:30pm

Please be sure your child attends each day of the Staggered Start Dates. If you have any questions, please contact us at school.

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Pick Up and Drop Off

Early Drop Off is at 7:15 A.M.
Breakfast Begins at 7:15 A.M.

School Schedule

Monday-Thursday

7:15 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

***Scholar must be crossing the threshold of the classroom at 7:45 A.M. or he/she will receive a tardy.**

Friday

7:15 A.M. to 1:45 P.M.

*** No after-school on Friday***

***Early dismissals are NOT allowed after 3:00 p.m. Mon-Thurs. and 1:15 p.m. on Fridays.**

Parent Orientation

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are already beginning to prepare for the 2022 – 2023 school year. We are very excited about the opportunity to welcome our new and returning middle school scholars to a brand new year. We are offering three different orientations times this year, and it is critical that you attend one:

1. **5th grade and NEW STUDENT Parent Orientation: Tuesday, August 16, 2022, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.**
This orientation is designed specifically for our 5th grade scholars who are new to middle school, and any new 6th – 8th grade scholars who are transferring into CICS Avalon for the 2018-2019 school year.
2. **6th – 8th grade Parent Orientation: Wednesday, August 17, 2022, from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.** This orientation is designed specifically for our returning 6th-8th grade scholars and families who are familiar with Avalon MS; it will not go into as much detail as the 5th grade and New Student Orientation since these scholars are more familiar with Avalon.

Parent Orientation is designed to provide information, answer questions, and get scholars and families ready for another successful school year. Below is a summary of topics that will be discussed at Parent Orientation.

- **School Mission & Vision**
- **2021 – 2022 Data Review**
- **Our Rigorous Curriculum & Common Core State Standards**
- **Behavior Management System: Paycheck System**
- **Scholar Incentives**
- **High Expectations: Academics & Behavior**
- **Academic Interventions & Enrichments**
- **School Uniform Policy**
- **Extracurricular Activities & Tutoring**

During Parent Orientation, you will also have the opportunity to pick up your child's schedule, meet your child's teachers, turn in any outstanding registration documents and sign up for transportation services for the school year. There is limited space for the transportation services. Please sign up early.

HEALTHY SNACK LETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are writing to inform you of important new rules regarding snacks and beverages at CICS Avalon:

1. **Absolutely no outside junk food will be allowed on campus for scholars at any point, from before school to after school, and including breakfast, snack time, and lunch.**
2. **Absolutely no outside beverages with the exception of unflavored bottled water will be allowed on campus for scholars at any point, from before school to after school, and including breakfast, snack time, and lunch.**
3. **Any scholars breaking these rules, either by consuming these items or by having them visible at school, such as hanging out of their pockets will receive a phone call home. They will also have the food confiscated and not returned.**

Junk food includes, but is not limited to, juice, soda, candy, chips of any kind, packaged or homemade pastries, cupcakes, cakes and doughnuts, and cookies. Examples of healthier snacks include pretzels, fruit or fruit snacks, granola bars, unsalted nuts, and vegetables like carrots and celery. If you would like a list of healthy food / snack options, stop by the office.

Foods and beverages like these can lead to long-term health issues, including obesity, heart problems, and diabetes. Furthermore, they have been proven to decrease academic performance by making children sleepy, restless, or even physically ill.

Note that on rare special occasions, staff may provide scholars with candy or treats; these are the only times that scholars may consume junk food on campus. We hope that this new rule will make a positive impact on our scholars' health and physical fitness. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.



Transportation

Vendor Listing

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bus services are not provided by the school. Parents are responsible for making all transportation arrangements.

- ✓ Call the bus vendor
- ✓ Inform them of the services you're in need of (i.e. Pick Up/Drop Off Address, frequency of days, & weekly pricing)
- ✓ Inform staff of which vendor you have decided to go with so that there is a smooth transition for dismissal

For your convenience, we have included a list of transportation vendors:

- **Ms. Pat's Transportation**
 - Ms. Pat: (773) 447-9766
- **CH1 Enterprises**
 - Mr. Gibson: (773) 430-0837
- **Dream Big Learning Academy - Before/After school care**
 - Mr. Palmer: (312) 885 - 6733
- **Booker Transportation**
 - Mr. Booker: (773) 895-5697
- **Future World**
 - Mario: (773) 678-8217
- **Next Generation**
 - (773) 331-0611
- **Mr. Marshall**
 - Ms. Jade Brazelton 773-253-1907
- **A Family Affair**
 - (773) 655-3038

If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (773) 721-0858.

Technology Policy & Procedure

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you all know, technology plays a prominent role in our scholars' lives. While technology offers many benefits, it can also create problems that negatively impact the learning environment. One example of this is the potential inappropriate use of cell phones. Inappropriate cell phone use may impact instruction in the following ways:

- Cheating on tests/class work via text messaging and cameras;
- Circulation of inappropriate photos taken in bathrooms;
- Video game distractions;
- Ringing/text messaging distractions during instructional time;
- Cyber-bullying;
- Loss of instructional time to address cell phone interruptions;
- Time spent investigating thefts of cell phones rather than focusing on student instruction.

Additionally, since we have phones in every classroom and office, students do not need to have cell phones on them during the school day.

To remove this distraction from the learning environment, we are implementing a strict policy for cell phones during the school day and will follow these procedures:

1. Every morning, students must power off their cell phones before they enter the school.
2. During homeroom, students will write their name on a post-it and place it on their cell phone.
3. After cell phones have been labeled, the homeroom teacher will collect them.
4. Cell phones will then be locked safely in the back cabinet of the classroom.
5. During afternoon homeroom, homeroom teachers will distribute cell phones back to students.

Consequences

If a student has a cell phone with him/her during the school day without permission, it will be confiscated and he/she will be sent to the dean's office. Once a cell phone is confiscated, a parent must pick it up. Students will also receive the following consequences for having a cell phone during the school day without permission from the principal or dean:

- First Offense: \$20 cell phone deduction and send out
- Second Offense: \$20 cell phone deduction, send out, and parent conference
- After the second offense, if the issue is not corrected, the student will receive a more severe consequence from the school leader.

REGEN CELL PHONE POLICY

POLICY FOR ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Inappropriate use of cell phones and devices is prohibited on our campus. Ringing cell phones are disruptive during class time. Camera phones and text messaging are used to cheat on quizzes and tests. Phones are stolen, loaned to other students, may be lost or broken and have exacerbated crisis situations. The inappropriate use of cell phones at school is detrimental to the academic climate because it takes valuable time away from instruction and creates disciplinary problems. Therefore, when phones and devices are used inappropriately, they will be confiscated and parents will be contacted. Devices will be returned to the parents.

Due to the enormous time spent on stolen cell phones, the school will NOT investigate stolen cell phones. Their security is the sole responsibility of the student.

Students may not use their cell phones to make phone calls on campus at any point during the school day. In turn, we ask parents who need to speak to their children during the day to contact them through our office. Students always have access to our phones to contact family members.

We realize that having to pick up a student's phone may be inconvenient and therefore we recommend you discuss this policy with your student in order to avoid this problem. Confiscated phones will be labeled with the student's name and kept with the dean until the parent takes possession.

CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS- AVALON CAMPUS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN OR BROKEN CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES. THE SCHOOL WILL NOT PAY FOR PHONES THAT ARE LOST, STOLEN OR MISPLACED BY STAFF MEMBERS AFTER CONFISCATION. STUDENTS MUST TAKE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN ELECTRONIC DEVICES IF THEY CHOOSE TO BRING THEM TO SCHOOL.

Early Dismissal and Visitor's Policies

EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY

In the event that you should need to retrieve your scholar, please do so by the cut off time. **Early dismissal times are before 3:00 pm Monday - Thursday and before 1:15pm on Fridays..** You should arrive by these set times for any set appointments, work schedules, etc. In the event that you phone ahead, your scholar needs to be picked up by the established early dismissal time. If you are not here by that time, the scholar will be returned to class for regular dismissal. When scholars are awaiting pick-up or called after the established early dismissal times it works against the dismissal procedures. It is the responsibility of the parent to keep this policy in mind.

VISITOR POLICY

The safety and security of staff and students at Chicago International Charter Schools- Avalon Campus is of utmost importance. A critical part of creating a safe campus environment is for the administration, as well as those individuals or classrooms receiving visitors, to have advance knowledge of all visitors. School administration must know at all times who is on campus and reserves the right to refuse entry to any visitor. The following procedures for visiting Chicago International Charter Schools- Avalon Campus will be strictly followed.

CLOSED CAMPUS

Chicago International Charter Schools- Avalon Campus is a closed campus. All students are required to remain on school grounds during the regularly scheduled school day, including the lunch period. It is unlawful for anyone to take a student away from school during the regular school day without first obtaining proper permission from a designated school official.

VISITOR POLICY, SIGN IN, AND VERIFICATION

The Operations team is responsible for managing involvement of volunteers and visitors, and for ensuring that the activities of visitors and volunteers do not result in undue disruption of the instructional program. It is also important that the presence of visitors and volunteers does not contribute to safety or security issues for students and staff members or for the visitors themselves.

ALL CAMPUS VISITORS MUST:

- Obtain an observation form from the office staff after entering the school office. Advance notice is not required, but no visitor is guaranteed entry to the campus on a specific date and time.
- Sign into the visitor's log immediately upon entrance, providing all requested information (e.g., visitor's name, date, time, name, purpose of visit, other additional information the School may require). This is for the safety of students, staff, as well as the individual in case of emergency. Failure to provide information will be grounds for denial of access.
- Show Identification *(If Requested)*. Failure to provide information will be grounds for denial of access.
- Complete a visitor's badge and obtain the main office's approval before proceeding. The visitor's badge may include the following information: visitor name, date, time, destination and office approval. You may be required to wait depending on the availability. Visitation starts no earlier than 8:30 am.
- Wear a visitor's badge at all times during your stay at the school.
- Keep observation of classroom activity to a particular purpose and reasonable frequency, as determined by the School.
- Follow the established procedures for scheduling an appointment with the teacher(s).
- Return the visitor's badge to the school office before leaving the campus and sign out. You must indicate on the visitor's log the time you are leaving the school.

SOME IMPORTANT RULES FOR ALL VISITORS:

- Do not interfere with any school activity during the visitation. Visiting the School is a privilege, not a right.
- Enter and leave the classroom as quietly as possible when class is in session.
- While class is in session, do not converse with students, teachers, and/or instructional aides during the visitation unless explicitly permitted.

Middle School Uniform Policy: 5th – 8th Grade

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are extremely excited about starting the upcoming school year with you and your child! As you know, all of our scholars are required to wear school uniforms. School uniforms help minimize disruptive behavior, promote respect for oneself and others, build school and community spirit, and help maintain high academic standards. We believe in “sweating the small stuff” in student behavior so that we can create the space for rigorous academics.

The dress code will be strictly enforced. Warnings will not be issued. The dress code is in effect anytime students are in the school building. Each day, our scholars are **required** to wear clothing that adheres to our school uniform policy. All uniform apparel can be viewed and purchased at the following store:

Martinelli's Children's Wear
3517 W. 95th St.
Evergreen Park, IL
(708) 425 – 6287

Below you will find the required school uniform for our 5th – 8th grade scholars:

Days when students do not have physical education

Shirts and Outerwear

1. A CICS – Avalon navy blue cardigan or navy blue blazer with the embroidered CICS – Avalon logo. The cardigan must be purchased at Martinelli's.
 - a. **We are no longer allowing the option of buying your own cardigan and sewing an Avalon patch onto it.** This policy resulted in too many different types of cardigans, and the patches often fell off.If students become hot wearing the cardigan or blazer, they may drape it over their chairs during class, but they must have the cardigan or blazer with them at all times.
2. A white-collared button-up shirt. **Polo shirts are not allowed.** The shirt does not have to have a logo on it, since scholars will wear the CICS – Avalon cardigan or blazer.
3. Students may not wear anything underneath their school shirts except **one solid white, navy blue, or black short-sleeve T-shirt**. Undershirt sleeves may not be visible at any time. The cardigan or blazer may be worn only over the top of the school shirt (not draped over shoulders or tied around waist), and the collar of the school shirt must be completely visible.
4. Coats, non-school sweatshirts, or any other outerwear are not permitted to be worn in school and must be left in the coat closet all day, unless stated otherwise.

5. **Shirts must always be tucked in** whenever students are on school grounds. This means planning ahead to buy shirts that students are able to tuck in. A shirt being “too short” to tuck in is not an acceptable excuse.

Pants and Skirts

1. Boys must wear khaki dress pants. Girls must wear khaki dress pants or navy blue plaid skirts. Khaki “dress” shorts are also acceptable for both boys and girls during August, September, May, and June. Capri pants, cargo pants and shorts, spandex material, and corduroys are not permitted.
2. **No pockets, loops, or straps on pants or skirts can be below the hip level.**
3. Rubber bands are not permitted around pants.
4. Pants must not be too baggy or too tight nor torn or frayed. Pants must be worn at waist level.
5. Other clothing must not be visible under pants.
6. Skirts must be knee length or longer, with no high slits. If girls would like to wear tights or leggings under skirts, they must be **solid (no patterns, prints or other colors) navy blue, white, or black.**
7. Skorts are not allowed.

Ties

1. **All students must wear a solid navy blue or a navy blue plaid tie with their uniform.** Regular neckties, bowties, and criss-cross ties are all acceptable. The tie is NOT optional and must be worn with the regular school uniform on non-gym days.

Shoes

1. **Solid black dress shoes are required on non-PE days.** Shoelaces and all parts of the shoe must be black. The only exceptions are gold or silver buckles on the dress shoes, which are acceptable. **Other than gold or silver buckles, *not a speck of any other color* will be allowed on the black dress shoes.**
 - For boys, dress shoes include oxfords, monk shoes, and loafers.
 - For girls, dress shoes include pumps, loafers, and ballet flats. Girls’ shoes with studs, chains, etc. are *not* allowed. Shoes should be close-toed, and if they have heels, they must be less than three inches.
 - Socks of any color or pattern are allowed each day.
2. **Boots, sandals, athletic shoes, sneakers, flip-flops, stilettos, and platform shoes are not permitted. If students wear boots to school during the winter months, they must either change into the appropriate uniform shoes when they arrive, OR they may keep the boots on if they are SOLID black.**
3. Shoes must be laced up, with tongue inside, and tied securely throughout the school day.

Belts

1. **Solid black belts**, worn through pant belt loops and fastened, are required daily. Belts may not have any oversized, brand name, or flashy buckles or other details. Belts may not hang down. Any pants purchased for the school uniform must allow for belts.

Days when students have physical education

Shirts and Pants

1. **Students must wear navy blue CICS – Avalon T-shirts, and navy blue CICS – Avalon sweatpants or shorts.** These shirts and pants/shorts must be purchased at Martinelli's. Shirts and sweatpants/shorts both **MUST** have the CICS – Avalon logo.
 - We are no longer allowing the option of buying your own shirts or sweatpants and sewing an Avalon patch onto them. This policy resulted in too many different types of pants and T-shirts, and the patches often fell off. Students may not wear anything underneath their school shirts except **one solid white black, or navy blue short-sleeve T-shirt.**

Sweatshirts/Sweaters

1. Students are not required to wear anything over their CICS – Avalon T-shirts. However, if they would like to wear a sweater or sweatshirt to keep warm during the day, they may wear either the CICS – Avalon navy blue cardigan (which they wear on non-PE days) OR a CICS – Avalon navy blue sweatshirt.
 - **Students may not wear any other outwear during the school day, even if it is solid navy blue and even if it has the CICS – Avalon patch sewn onto it.**

Shoes

1. On PE days, students must wear **athletic** shoes, meaning shoes that are primarily designed for sports or other forms of physical exercise.
 - These shoes must be black, white, or black *and* white. **Not a speck of any other color, including gray, gold, or silver, will be allowed on the gym shoes.**
 - **This includes both during PE class and all other classes, on days when the student has PE.**
 - Shoes must be laced up, with tongue inside, and tied securely throughout the school day. Socks of any color or pattern are allowed each day.

Every day, whether or not the student has physical education

Backpacks

1. Backpacks **MUST** be see-through. They may be mesh or clear, and they may be any color, as long as they are see-through.

Purses

1. **Handbags, purses, pocketbooks, or similar items must not be larger than HALF the size of a regular sheet of paper, which is 8.5 x 11 inches, and 3 to 4 inches thick.** Purses may be measured easily by folding a sheet of paper in half – the purse must be the same width/length or smaller. Purses larger than this are unnecessary and distracting for the school environment. In addition, “backpack purses,” or small backpacks, are not allowed.



Jewelry and Make-up

1. Girls may wear **stud** earrings only. Boys may **not** wear any earrings. We recommend that boys do not get their ears pierced during the school year; however, if they do, the earrings must come out during the school day OR be covered up with bandages throughout the school day. It is the family's responsibility to send the student to school with bandages daily.
2. Visible body piercings and tongue piercings are not permitted.
3. Necklaces must be either very short, or tucked inside the shirt if they are long.
4. No heavy make-up is permitted, including lipstick or colored lip gloss.
5. Bracelets are limited to one per wrist for both girls and boys.

Head Coverings

1. No hats or other head coverings are permitted, including scarves, hairnets, athletic sweatbands, and bandanas anywhere inside a building at any time, except where mandated by legitimate religious requirements or with a medical note.
2. **Headbands must be solid black, navy blue, or white, or navy blue plaid. (No patterns, prints or other colors besides navy blue plaid are allowed)** Headband width should be less than 4".
3. Scarves cannot be worn with the school uniform while in the building.

Tattoos

1. No visible (permanent or non-permanent) tattoos or **body markings** of any kind are permitted.
 - Note that students who have drawn on themselves, whether at school or at home, will earn a \$10 Dress Code deduction (more details on this below).

Distracting Clothing

School leaders reserve the right to ask students to remove any jewelry or accessories that they feel distract from the learning process, fail to meet the above guidelines, or are otherwise inappropriate for school.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations

1. Scholars who are not wearing the **complete** proper uniform at any time during the school day will receive a \$10 Dress Code deduction from their paycheck. If the violation is minor (e.g., forgetting a tie or cardigan, or wearing shoes with a tiny bit of red) and occurs just a few times, the scholar will still participate in class with teachers and peers.
2. However, if a scholar is violating the dress code in a major way (e.g., wearing jeans or brightly colored shoes), he or she will not only receive the \$10 Dress Code deduction, **but will also not be allowed to participate in class with teachers and peers.**
 - Our Dean of Students will make a phone call home, and the scholar will remain in the dean's office until proper attire is brought to school.

- **The same policy will apply to scholars who are violating the dress code in a minor way** (examples included above; other examples include wearing a non-CICS – Avalon cardigan or a shirt that cannot be tucked in), **but have done so for more than a week, consecutively or non-consecutively.**

8th Grade End-of-the-year Moving Up Ceremony

The Moving Up ceremony is an opportunity for families to celebrate all the hard work scholars have done at CICS Avalon and look ahead to a successful experience in high school, college, and beyond. However, we want to save a cap and gown for their high school and college graduations. Because of this, the CICS Avalon Promotion Ceremony mandatory dress code is as follows:

Ladies	Gentleman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White dress or suit • Shirts/dresses must be full coverage; no sheer blouses or deep necks are allowed • Dress shoes which ladies are able to walk in (no gym shoes or flip flops are permitted) • Denim or jeans of all types and colors are prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy blue suit (links provided via email and on next page) • Shirt and tie must be worn • Dress shoes (no gym shoes or flip flops are permitted) • Denim or jeans of all types and colors are prohibited
	

Middle School Behavior Management System

Paycheck System Overview

Our behavior management system is known as the “paycheck system,” and it’s a tool for teaching our scholars about decision-making and self-control while preparing them for the real world.

- The “paycheck week” begins each Friday and ends each Thursday.
- Each student begins the week with \$50 scholar dollars. **This is not real money, but a hypothetical paycheck (“scholar dollars”) used to track their weekly behavior.**
- Students keep their paycheck money by meeting expectations throughout the week.
- **Students earn more money (scholar dollars), in increments of \$2 to \$20, for going above and beyond in** demonstrating our core virtues or academic excellence. Specific behaviors that result in scholar dollars are detailed on the “How to Earn Scholar Dollars” page.
- **Students lose money (deductions), also in increments of \$2 to \$20, for failing to meet expectations.** Specific behaviors that result in deductions are detailed on the “Deductions Overview” page.
- Each Friday, students receive a printed “paycheck” that indicates the total amount of money they have saved/earned throughout the previous week.
 - o The paycheck will list both deductions and scholar dollars earned each day, along with the teacher who gave the consequence or reward.
 - o **Parents/guardians must review and sign the paycheck**, and the scholars must submit it to their homeroom teacher on Monday morning. Failure to do so will result in a \$10 No Homework deduction.
 - o Signing paychecks each week is an essential part of our School-Family communication, as it empowers parents with a detailed portrait of their child’s behavior during school.
- Scholars who have earned \$40 or more on their paycheck get to attend Fun Friday, a 45-minute free period at the end of each day on Friday. During this time, students partake in a variety of fun activities including playing basketball, jumping rope, socializing, listening to music, and enjoying snacks.
- Scholars who have earned \$50 or more on their paycheck are considered “Millionaires.” These scholars get to attend Fun Friday and also receive other special privileges, such as getting their lunch first, earning first priority for attending field trips, and more.
- Scholars who have earned between \$1 and \$39 do not participate in Fun Friday, but enjoy all regular school privileges, including social time at lunch, daily enrichment activities, and participation in all special school events.
- Scholars, who have lost all their paycheck money, meaning they have \$0 or a negative paycheck balance, are on Perch. These scholars lose their privileges for the week: they attend detention on Monday, have silent lunch throughout the week, attend silent study hall rather than enrichment, and miss out on other school privileges depending on the week.
 - o Scholars always have the opportunity to earn their way off Perch mid-week by demonstrating great behavior and completing a detailed behavior reflection.

How to Earn Scholar Dollars

Scholars get dollars for exceeding expectations at the little things that build character

Responsibility \$2	Respect \$5	Compassion \$5	Diligence \$10	Integrity \$10	Perseverance \$20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing pride in the appearance of your school when no one is looking (i.e. picking up trash in the hall, wiping down sinks) • Working especially hard at a task; stepping up and leading when needed. • Accepting feedback and working to use it to get better • Being a good role model for your peers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing courtesy to teachers, peers and visitors • Listening unusually well to the opinions of your teachers and peers • Taking pride in the appearance of your school ('Leave No Trace') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping a classmate make a better choice • Showing understanding and not laughing when a classmate does something that could be embarrassing • Showing extra patience for classmates • Sticking up for someone when others don't seem to understand • Helping someone out, even if they're not your best friend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing extra effort in class • Consistently fulfilling your assignments and tasks without delay • Going the extra mile to succeed or finish a task • Making excellent use of independent work time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owning up to mistakes • Taking responsibility for your actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doing the right thing, even when others forget • Bouncing back from difficulty with strength and resolve • Persevering through a challenging assignment without showing frustration • Waiting patiently to share concerns with a teacher
<p style="text-align: center;">Academic Excellence (\$5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to tackle a hard problem with eagerness • Giving exemplary answers that come about from unusual insight or diligence • Exceptional homework • Exceptional exit tickets • Answers that use eloquent wording, content-specific vocabulary or high-quality vocabulary • Reading with great expression • Taking pride in the presentation of your work. Grammar is perfect; neat and legible 					

Paycheck System: Deductions Overview

Note: Students will learn/review the paycheck system in detail during Middle School Panther Camp, the half days of school during August Orientation

\$2

- Calling out (CO)- blurting out answers without being called on
- Failure to SLANT (SL)- not sitting in SLANT after a redirection
- Unprepared for class (UP)- failure to bring required materials to class (e.g., packets, writing utensil)
- Failure to follow directions promptly (DIR)- failure to follow any direction quickly
- Off-task (OT)- any time a student is not engaged in the current task from the teacher after a redirection
- Disorganized notebook (ORG)- binder disorganized/messy after scholar has been reminded to get organized

\$5

- Talking during class (TALK) - any talking during an inappropriate time/without permission
- Inappropriate hallway walking/Gaps (HALL) – failure to follow correct hallway transition procedures (e.g., gaps in the line, facing backwards, making noises)
- Out of seat (SEAT) - getting out of seat without permission
- Exaggerated distraction/response (EG) – any exaggerated and therefore distracting response or behavior (e.g., making distracting noises, saying, “Ooo” and waving hand wildly to get called on)
- No flood book (FLOOD) – not having a flood book at any time. A flood book is simply an independent reading book. Scholars may bring one from home or check one out at school.
- Junk Food (JUNK)— having possession of any junk food in school
- Littering (LIT)—any littering in school or on school property
- Gum chewing (GUM) – chewing gum, straws, etc.
- Jump to It (JUMP) – failure to follow a direction promptly, but with attitude behind it (i.e. purposefully turning around slowly in your chair when asked to turn around)
- Unexcused Lateness (LATE) – being late without a legitimate excuse from parent/guardian
- Argue with peers (ARG) – arguing with a peer, but without disrespect (e.g., “That’s my pencil.” “No, I gave it to you; it’s mine.”)

\$10

- Inappropriate response (IR) – any response to a teacher or staff member that is not appropriate (e.g., eye rolling, teeth sucking, huffing or saying, “That wasn’t me!” in response to a deduction)
- Laughing at peer (LGH) – laughing at a peer with negative intention
- Misuse of materials (MM) – any use of material that is not its given purpose (e.g., writing on your arm with a pen).
- Zero participation/effort (Zero) – not giving any effort when answering a question or working on an assignment (i.e., refusing to try)
- Absent (AB) – any absences without a note from a parent/guardian for the following reasons: funeral, sickness (more than 2 day sickness needs doctor’s note), high school shadow day
- Passing notes (NOTE) – passing or actively receiving notes during class
- Unauthorized Travel (PASS) – going anywhere not specified on your hall pass
- Dismissal (DIS)—Breaking any rules during dismissal procedures. Includes: talking during dismissal, not staying with homeroom teacher when you need to get picked up, not picking up siblings when needed, generally not being where you need to be or doing what you should during dismissal
- Homework (HW)- incomplete/no homework for any class

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 Joseph Patterson, MS Dean of Students
 Shameka Williams, DOO

www.regenerationschools.org/cics-avalon

- Dress code (DC)—Scholars coming out of uniform or missing any uniform piece

\$20

- Taking to Perch (TPerch) – talking to any Perch scholar during lunch or enrichment
- Lying (LIE) – failing to tell the truth
- Send-out (BYE)- any time a student is sent out this is added on including the three deductions

Automatic Send-Out

- Cheating/copying
- Talking/during fire or other safety drill
- Disrespect to parent, teacher, staff, student
 - o foul language
 - o hurtful language
 - o backtalk
- Playfighting (PLAY) –any physical contact for the purpose of fighting, for play or in seriousness
- Instigating (IGATE) – purposefully trying to instigate a conflict or negative response from another student
- Cell Phone (CELL) – any time a cell phone or electronic device is on your person during school hours
- Talking in Hallway (THALL) – any talking or noise-making in the hall
- Three deductions – if a student earns three deductions during class, he/she is sent straight to the dean's office

Middle School Parent Communication Overview

At CICS Avalon, we believe that parents and families play an integral role in their child's education. When the school staff and the family work together and are on the same page, scholars thrive academically and behaviorally. Therefore, we want to be transparent from the beginning about what kind of communication you can expect from the middle school team throughout the school year.

1. **Weekly** progress reports: These reports will show your scholars' grades in each of his/her classes. We ask that parents review and sign the progress reports each Friday, and the scholars return them to school on Monday. Please note that grades may not be updated **every** week.
2. **Weekly** paychecks: Scholars will receive a paycheck every single week, which will indicate the total amount of money they have saved/earned throughout the previous week; specific deductions and scholar dollars earned each day; and the staff member who gave the consequence or reward. We ask that parents review and sign the paychecks each Friday, and the scholars return them to school on Monday.
3. **Monthly phone calls** from your child's homeroom teacher. You will receive an update at least once a month regarding your child's academic progress and behavior. **If you want to speak with teachers other than your child's homeroom teacher, or if you want more frequent check-ins, please reach out to teachers directly via email.** Again, we greatly value parent-teacher communication, but it is simply not sustainable for middle school teachers, who work with around ninety students, to frequently call the parents of every scholar. That's why we prioritize communication with the homeroom teacher.
4. **Robo calls** from the school whenever we need to relay any time-sensitive information, such as cancellation of after school activities. Please be sure to listen to these important messages.
5. **Email** any time. Teacher contact information will be provided to you within the first two weeks of school.
6. **Contact school leaders directly**: You are welcome to text or call the school leadership team any time Monday through Thursday from 7:00am to 7:00pm, and Friday from 6:30am to 4:00pm. Note that we provide you with our cell phone numbers because we are passionate about school-family communication, and we want to make ourselves as accessible as possible. However, please respect that these are our personal cell phones. If you need to reach us outside of the above hours, please stick to email. Thank you!
 - a. De'Jenne Grant: Middle School Principal: 917-655-1767
 - b. Joseph Patterson, Middle School Dean: 773-527-9706